

More generally, the inventors have found that it was possible to prepare immortal, untransformed avian cell lines, even from cells of avian tissues, that is to say from cells other than circulating blood cells or haematopoietic cells.

The present invention relates, in particular, to immortal, untransformed avian cells which contain, integrated into their genome, the SV40 T+t gene under the control of the MTI (murine metallothionein I) promoter.

Preferably, the cells also integrate at least one LTR sequence. The LTR sequence can be deleted as described in the examples.

While the cells are of avian origin, they may in particular be derived from Muscovy duck.

The invention naturally covers the cells which are derived from these cell lines. By this, it is to be understood that it is not only the cells as deposited in the CNCM under the indicated references which are covered but also the cells which constitute the progeny of these deposited cells, i.e., on the one hand, those which are obtained by simple multiplication and which may undergo